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12 March 1980

Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

(FOUO 2/80)



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WORLDWIDE REPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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USSR

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BOOK ON PREVENTING WATER POLLUTION

Moscow OKHRANA VODNOY SREDY [WATER CONSERVATION] in Russian 1978 pp 2, 3-5, 182-183

[Annotation, introduction and table of contents from book by the Moscow City Soviet of Worker's Deputies Executive Committee, Administration of Water supply and Sewer Works, MOSVODOKANALNIIPROYEKT [Moscow Scientific Research Institute for the Design of Water Supply and Sewer Systems], Izdatel'stvo "Moskovskiy Rabochiy", 184 pages]

[Annotation] [Text] This collection discusses the status and measures being taken to conserve the waters of Moscow and suburban Moscow. The authors present considerable information which was obtained through various studies of water facilities in the city and oblast.

The book is intended for specialists who are involved with the problems of water conservation.

[Introduction by A. S. Matrosov, director of the Administration of Water Supply and Sewer Works]

To realize measures on the complex and efficient utilization and conservation of land, water and forest resources.

"Main Directions for the Development of the National Economy of the USSR in 1976-1980"

The natural water resources of Moscow--river and ground waters--are so small that they would satisfy only one-tenth of the water needs of the population of about 8 million people. Under these conditions extreme importance and a unique significance are acquired by the problem of water conservation as concerns the municipal drinking-water supply and the degree of purification of sewage water that is dumped into the Moscow River, a shallow reservoir.

The complex status of the development of water management in the capital was correctly identified by party and soviet organs as long ago as the early 1930's. In 1931 the June Plenum of the VKP(b) [All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks] Central Committee passed a resolution about Moscow's

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municipal management saying that it was necessary to supply Moscow with water through a canal from the Upper Volga ("KPSS v rezolyutsiyakh i resheniyakh s"yezdov, konferentsiy i plenumov TsK" ["The CPSU in Resolutions and Decisions of Conferences, Meetings and Plenums of the Central Committee"], Vol 4, Moscow, Politizdat, 1970). With the completion of this canal the water supply system of Moscow acquired a dependable, long-term base for developing the water supply and for flooding the Moscow River.

In order to protect the supply source for the canal--the Ivan'kovskoye Reservoir--in 1967 a zone was established for the sanitary conservation of the reservoir. Later the building of industrial enterprises in its basin was limited and measures were developed to curtail the dumping of municipal and industrial sewage. Purification systems have already been built and put into operation in Kalinin, Konakov and in many industrial enterprises. Even today the fundamental measure for renewing the reservoir remains the purification of all currents from cities and from industrial and agricultural enterprises.

In recent years there has been a sharp increase in small vessels with motor engines in the reservoirs of the Canal imeni Moskva--in the Pestovskoye, Pyalovskoye, Klyaz'minskoye, and Khimkinskoye. While the motors are in operation they release exhaust gases containing chemically harmful substances into the water.

The ispolkom of the Moscow City Soviet of Workers' Deputies has passed a resolution forbidding the use of motorized vessels in the aforementioned reservoirs. The interests of a relatively small circle of boaters are not in accordance with the general municipal task of conserving water from pollution in order to improve the quality of drinking water.

The upper section of the Moscow River with its four reservoirs to regulate current today supplies 45 percent of the water for the municipal system. The condition of the river requires fixed attention. First it is essential to purify the sewage of cities, enterprises, sanatoriums, and children's institutions located in the basin. For Volga sources the fundamental measure to further sanitation amounts to the building of highly effective structures for the purification of sewage.

On the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Great October socialist revolution the first section of the Vazuzskaya Hydrotechnical System imeni 60-Letiya Oktyabrya was put into operation to supply water for Moscow.

In a letter to the collectives of builders, installation workers, operators and all participants in the construction of the system, L. I. Brezhnev called this labor gift for the anniversary of Great October a weighty contribution toward solving the problem of transforming Moscow into a model communist city.

Moscow stations receive 4.5 million cubic meters of biologically totally purified sewage daily. Almost the entire built-up section of the city has a sewerage system. This as well as the supply of water from the Canal

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imeni Moskva were the bases for the satisfactory sanitary condition of the Moscow River within the city limits and below.

One of the most important problems is the treatment of sedimentation from sewage. The existing method of locating sediment on platforms for natural drying does not meet growing municipal building and sanitation requirements. On the basis of native and foreign experience it is now necessary to determine the directions to take in order to solve this problem.

The 25th CPSU Congress emphasized the growing importance of conserving the environment and indicated specific measures to deal with the problem.

It is the duty of each individual to preserve and increase natural riches. Much has and continues to be done in this direction in Moscow. During recent years a number of enterprises in the city have put effective structures into operation with the purpose of the industrial purification of industrial currents. Many technological processes have been improved.

In January 1977 the bureau of the MGK [Moscow City Committee] and the MK [Moscow Committee] of the CPSU and the ispolkoms of Mossovet [Moscow City Soviet of Workers' Deputies] and Mosoblsovet [Moscow Oblast Soviet of Workers' Deputies] passed a resolution on natural conservation in Moscow and Moscow Oblast. This resolution confirms the specific plan of measures that must be fulfilled in the course of the 10th Five-Year Plan. The plan foresees the development of a scientifically-based program for the period until 1990 and will be directed at natural conservation and the careful use of natural resources in accordance with the plan to solve the socio-economic problems of Moscow's development.

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ITALY

GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GROUP

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 12 Jan 80 p 5

[Article by Antonio Cederna: "Ecological Committee Established by Cossiga"]

[Text] Rome--After wandering for years in the corridors of ministries and the halls of parliament like a phantom, derided, mystified, conjured, exorcized, ecology is returning, a little less poor and a little less bare, to Italian policy. For 2 days we have had an "Interministerial Committee for Environmental Protection," established by Cossiga and composed of the heads of 15 ministries who in some way have something to do with protecting the environment; its chairman delegate is Minister of Scientific Research Scalia and its secretary general is the former Honorable Merli, known for the law on water pollution which bears his name.

This is an effort to remedy, the president of the council said, the "considerable delay," or rather the "cultural void of ideas and behavior" exemplified by administrators and parties, and the "consistent underevaluation" reserved by the latter up to now for the "environmental aspects implicit in every decision of an economic and social nature."

The tasks facing the new committee are the following: establish the criteria which the state must adopt to exercise the functions of policy-making and coordination entrusted to it by the law on decentralization, since so many responsibilities have been transferred or delegated to the regions; give our country the necessary instruments to enable it not to look too bad among international organizations; and arrange to have the EEC directives introduced into our regulations (all the more at this time, since from 1 January until 30 June 1980 Italy is taking on the acting chairmanship of the EEC).

Furthermore, the collection, elaboration and diffusion of information and statistics are to be promoted (beginning with the areas most involved) relative to pollution and environmental deterioration in general with the objective of preparing a "periodic report on the state of the environment:" the search for technologies aimed at cleanliness, the study of ways to prevent the poisonous effects of certain substances, the choice of less polluting types of production and, at the highest level, that of employment.

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Finally, better late than never, it seems possible to say that an official government text two wholesome principles are confirmed: that no environmental reform is possible without a policy of prevention and that environmental reform is a source of employment and therefore of economic and social rehabilitation. Minister Scalia advises in an interview that a new environmental policy will be able to provide 100,000 new jobs.

Certainly, it seems that we are witnessing something already seen; and it will be sufficient to recall the ecological flare-up of the senate, 1971, under President Fanfani, when a committee of experts was appointed (with tasks not much different from those of the current committee) whose final disposition is unknown to us; and the establishment of the Ministry of Environment (fourth Rumor government, 1973-1974, whose first private secretary was Magistrate Gianfranco Amendola), later unfortunately abolished; as for the report on the status of the environment, the first and last was the one prepared by TECNECO in 1973, largely inspired by the interests of private and public industry. However, there is always time to be pessimistic, to the extent that it is worth reminding the heads of the interministerial committee of the principal problems on which they should reflect in order to engage in prompt political action.

The 1966 law against atmospheric pollution should be reexamined from top to bottom, inasmuch as it failed; as for the second edition of the Merli Law, recently approved by parliament, the regions should be assured the essential operational instruments and relative financing. We need to pass a law for soil protection in a country where rain alone causes erosion resulting in 2,000 billion lire of damage each year; an agenda approved unanimously by the senate last December (8-14 senators attending the session) obliges the government to take action within 90 days. And we should pass another basic law, on national parks and natural reserves (a bill has been approved by the Council of Ministers), which would preclude the primitive regionalization of the former and would regulate with a single form of discipline the establishment and administration of all protected areas, national and regional, now that substantial allocations of the "environmental program" of the "fourway" law are available.

We must tackle the problems of uncultivated or abandoned land, irrigation, forest fires and waste disposal; we should reexamine the laws on hunting and ocean fishing. Drastic action is to be undertaken relative to protection of the sea, the coasts and maritime government property (the Ministry of Merchant Marine includes a committee of experts working on protection of the sea against pollution); on the subject of housing, assurance should be given of the effective use of the funds assigned to local organizations for the acquisition and urbanization of areas necessary for public housing and free space for a more worthy quality of urban life.

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Furthermore, we should introduce into our legislation procedures aimed at evaluating a priori the environmental effects of any encroachment on the territory (streets, subdivision, industry and the like). Finally, the big energy question.

If nothing else, the interministerial committee is a new interlocutor for all those forces which have always fought for a less crumbled and contaminated Italy.

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